

Disaster Recovery Bulletin

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O E S
CALIFORNIA



Governor's Office of
Emergency Services

In this issue:

► **New Program for
Disaster Assistance
Division** (See Page 2)

► **Hazard Mitigation Grant
Program Quarterly
Report Requirements**
(See Page 2)

► **USDA and SBA Loans
Available**
(See Individual Assistance
on Page 5)

DISASTER ASSISTANCE DIVISION

Disaster Resistant California 2002 Conference

The *Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES)* and the *Emergency Preparedness Commission for the County and Cities of Los Angeles* have come together to co-sponsor the conference series called **Disaster Resistant California**. The conference will take place May 6-8, 2002 at the Pacific Palms Conference Resort in the City of Industry. These emergency management professionals have teamed up to provide an exciting and highly dynamic exploration of disaster mitigation, planning, preparedness, response, and recovery issues.

This conference will offer a variety of training and networking opportunities for the public and private sectors. Disaster Resistant California - *Sounding the Wake-up Call*, will provide an opportunity to create diverse partnerships working towards the reduction of future disaster impacts to communities and businesses.

This year's program will include compelling case studies from local, state and federal authorities, as well as nationally known experts offering innovative solutions to today's emergency management issues. Focusing on the creation of disaster resistant communities, the conference's presentations, displays, and demonstrations will emphasize successful systems, technologies, and strategies to implement hazard mitigation measures and programs.

To find out more about the conference, go to the OES Web site at www.oes.ca.gov, and click on "Disaster Resistant California Conference" or call (916) 845-8263 for more detailed information.

National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) Mid-Year Conference

OES staff attended the mid-year NEMA Conference held February 23-27 in Washington, D.C. Highlights of the conference included keynote speakers: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Director Joe M. Allbaugh, Attorney General John Ashcroft, and Governor Tom Ridge all pledging very close coordination of programs and money through the states for homeland security. A representative from the Centers for Disease Control spoke about the desire to link closely and aggressively with all emergency management offices of each state. The OES staff member who went to New York immediately following the 9/11 event and assisted in establishing an organized Donations Management System, was recognized for his assistance. (continued on page 2)

NEMA (continued)

The discussion of the President's \$3.5 billion budget included funds for planning, training, equipment and exercises. In addition, the budget proposed the elimination of the post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). OES and NEMA are vigorously fighting against the removal of the HMGP.

New Program for Disaster Assistance Division

The California Integrated Seismic Network (CISN), new to DAD, has been created to build upon the infrastructure set-up by TriNet – a collaboration between the U.S. Geological Survey, the California Division of Mines and Geology and the California Institute of Technology to build a state-of-the-art digital seismic network in southern California following the Northridge Earthquake. This program will provide emergency responders with critical information such as rapid earthquake notification and automatic maps of the distribution of damages as a result of shaking in the aftermath following large earthquakes. CISN will expand the dense network of seismic instruments, now installed in southern California, to northern and central California. This enhanced network will provide OES and other emergency managers with maps of ground shaking within minutes of an earthquake. To view these maps, go to <http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/>

[recenteqs/latest.htm](#) and select ShakeMaps for northern or southern California.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Gavilan Fire

On February 11, 2002, California applied for its first Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) from FEMA for the Gavilan Fire in San Diego County. Final approval for the FMAG will be based upon verification by FEMA that eligible costs reached the current individual fire cost threshold of \$1.8 million for California as documented on Project Worksheets for actual costs. Under FMAG (44 CFR, Section 204.42) these costs may include: equipment and supplies expended or lost; extraordinary labor costs; travel and per diem for employees performing eligible work; essential assistance such as police barricading and traffic control; extraordinary emergency operations center expenses; evacuations and sheltering; search and rescue; arson investigation; public information; and removal of trees that pose a threat to the general public; temporary repair of damage caused by firefighting activities when completed within 30 days of the close of the incident period; and mobilization and demobilization. For Individual Assistance for the Gavilan Fire, please see "San Diego County Fire" on page 4 of this bulletin.



HAZARD MITIGATION

Reimbursement Draw Down Reminder

OES is emphasizing the need for HMGP subgrantees to request timely reimbursements for all costs incurred to perform the approved scope of work. Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR) allows subgrantees to request reimbursements on an as-needed-basis. OES wants to reimburse subgrantees for completed mitigation work as quickly as possible because reimbursements are not being requested in relation to the percentage of work completed. This issue has drawn concern from representatives in Washington, D.C. and Sacramento. Please request reimbursement immediately upon completing the work. By requesting timely reimbursement, subgrantees will help OES demonstrate its commitment to the HMGP and the vital service it provides to the state of California. For more information on requesting reimbursement, call (916) 845-8150.

Reminder - HMGP Quarterly Report Requirements

All subgrantees are required to submit quarterly progress reports to the OES Hazard Mitigation Section each quarter. Quarterly due dates are January 15, April 15,

July 15, and October 15 of each year. A report must be submitted for each approved project, regardless of whether the project has been initiated. Additionally, the report should identify any special issues that affect the project completion. Non-complying applicants will be notified that OES has suspended all reimbursements for the project until the quarterly report requirement is met. You may now print the quarterly report form directly from the OES Web site.



HMGP SPOTLIGHTS

DR-1155-0119: City of Napa, Watershed Management Projects

During the past 36 years, Napa County residents have suffered loss of lives and over \$542 million in property damage due to flooding. The Citizens for Napa River Flood Management have developed a flood management plan for the entire Napa region. This diverse group consists of local engineers, architects, aquatic ecologists, business and agricultural leaders, environmentalists, government officials, homeowners, renters, and numerous community organization representatives.

By establishing goals of blending engineering and ecology, the Citizens established an agreed-

upon set of goals, for the city and the entire county. A plan was developed, designed, and implemented in 2001 through the use of hazard mitigation techniques such as detention basins, changing reservoir use, and down-river strategies including improving mouth drainage for the Napa River, watershed protection strategies and risk reduction, and other mitigation techniques. The project provides for a 100-year flood protection. The city used HMGP funds to acquire properties in a special flood hazard area, which will be used as part of an Army Corps of Engineers' project to restore the floodplain of the Napa River.

DR-1044-0012: City of Roseville, Flood Control Project

Three creeks in Roseville, the Cirby, Linda, and Dry Creeks, converge where flooding has occurred regularly since 1930. Flooding in 1986 caused more than \$7.5 million in damage, and two events in 1995 flooded 270 homes causing over \$3 million in damage. This project removed obstructions in the waterways, elevated Sunrise Avenue, replaced a bridge on Sunrise Avenue to allow free flow of the stream, improved drainage, constructed a flood wall, replaced culverts, and widened and rechanneled the creeks. As a result of the project the city applied for a "Letter of Map Revision" from the National Flood Insurance Program



to remove 233 structures from the floodplain.

In addition to flood mitigation, this project resulted in major environmental benefits to the areas around the creeks. These include:

- providing environmental training to the construction workers;
- maintaining the creek channel in a natural state;
- improving fish passage by removing the Sunrise culverts and replacing them with a bridge, allowing the reintroduction of anadromous fish into the area;
- allowing for an increase in wetland habitat to encourage more ducks, hawks, songbirds, and other native species to return to the area; and
- making the area more heavily forested, resulting in more shade over the creek, which is favorable to fish.

DR-1005-89 City of Hesperia Fire District, Vegetation Management Project

Before this project was implemented, vegetation fires were on the increase with more than 200 fires per year. These fires were mostly due to large amounts of dead vegetation on parcels left by absentee property owners. The goal of the project was to reduce the vegetation in and around the city by creating an ordinance requiring homeowners to remove the vegetation from their parcels.

The biggest benefit from this project is that fires to structures caused by surrounding vegetation is no longer occurring. This has almost eliminated structural damage from vegetation fires. Other benefits of this program include longer intervals between re-growth of many of the plants, new vital plant structure increasing the food supply for wildlife, easier cleanup of trash and debris illegally dumped on lots, and easier lot maintenance.

The long-term benefits of the program will be seen in the continuing reduction of the costs associated with extinguishing vegetation fires. The city will continue the project using local funding in part by imposing fees on property owners who do not comply with the new ordinance. While vegetation fires will still pose a threat, they should not be of the same frequency or severity as in past years.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

Tehama County Freeze

On March 1, 2002, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) granted a Secretarial disaster designation for the counties of **Tehama** (primary) and **Mendocino, Shasta and Trinity**

(contiguous counties) due to agriculture losses caused by freezing temperatures that occurred in April 2001. As a result of this designation, farmers and ranchers may qualify for emergency loan assistance to cover actual losses directly resulting from this disaster. Applications will be accepted by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) through **October 31, 2002** for emergency loans for physical and production losses.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has also declared the counties of **Tehama** (primary) and **Mendocino, Shasta and Trinity** (contiguous counties) a disaster area due to freezing temperatures that occurred in April 2001. Small, non-farm businesses in these counties may apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans to cover working capital needs. These disaster loans are available to small businesses to offset the adverse economic impact caused by reduced revenue from farmers and ranchers whose crop production suffered. Applications for economic injury loans must be returned to SBA by **November 1, 2002**. (contact information listed on page 5)

San Diego County Fire

On February 20, 2002, the SBA declared **San Diego County** (primary) and the counties of **Imperial, Orange and Riverside**

(contiguous) a disaster area due to damage caused by the Gavilan fire that began on February 10, 2002. SBA's disaster declaration makes low-interest federal disaster loans available to homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes whose property was damaged or destroyed by the fire in the Fallbrook area of San Diego County.

The deadline to submit applications for property damage to SBA was **April 22, 2002**. Applications for economic injury must be returned to SBA by **November 19, 2002**. (contact information listed on page 5)

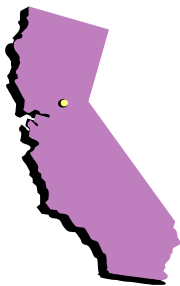
Nevada State Fires and Drought

On January 8, 2002, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designated five California counties a disaster area due to extreme fires and drought that occurred May 1, 2001 through September 30, 2001 in the State of Nevada. As a result, the FSA has been authorized to provide emergency loans for physical and production losses to eligible applicants in the contiguous California counties of **Lassen, Nevada, Sierra, Modoc and Placer**. Therefore, farmers and ranchers may qualify for emergency loan assistance to cover actual losses directly resulting from this disaster. Applications will be



accepted by the FSA through **September 9, 2002.**

SBA also declared the counties of **Lassen, Nevada, Sierra, Modoc,** and **Placer** a disaster area due to the same circumstances mentioned above. Therefore, small, non-farm businesses and small agricultural cooperatives may qualify for SBA disaster loans to offset the adverse economic impact caused by reduced revenue to farmers and ranchers due to the extreme fires and drought. Eligible small businesses include those that do business directly with the growers, such as truckers and suppliers of agricultural equipment or services. Applications for economic injury loans may be filed until the close of business on **September 9, 2002.** (contact information follows)



All California Counties:

SBA announced an extension of the filing deadline for its expanded EIDL program implemented for small businesses impacted by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and subsequent federal actions. Applications for economic injury loans may be filed until the close of business on **May 22, 2002.**

SBA Contact Information:

Those interested in applying for property damage or economic injury may obtain further information and apply by contacting:

SBA Area 4
P.O. Box 13795
Sacramento, CA 95853-4795
Telephone: (800) 488-5323
Hearing Impaired:
(916) 566-7388

USDA Contact Information:

Those interested in applying for disaster assistance for physical and production losses may apply through your local Farm Service Agency office, or log onto the following Web site for additional information: www.fsa.usda.gov.

RESOURCES BRANCH

Reminders!!!!

Audit Requirements

All subgrantees that expend more than \$300,000 of federal funds in a fiscal year are required to comply with the federal Single Audit Act of 1984 and the Amendments of 1996. If you have any questions about the Single Audit Act and federal disaster funds, please contact the Grant Analysis Unit at (916) 845-8110.

Are Our Records Accurate?

If you have recently received OES correspondence that has been improperly addressed, we request your assistance in updating our records. To update your Public Assistance grant records, please contact the Grants Payments Unit at (916) 845-8110. To update your Hazard Mitigation grant records, please contact the applicable Hazard Mitigation office listed on the back of this bulletin.

Now may also be a good time to ensure that your Authorized Agent Resolution is current. Please contact the Grant Payments Unit at (916) 845-8110 if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Returned Funds/ Interest Earnings

Subgrantees must return interest earned on state and federal funds. For more information regarding returned interest payments, please contact the OES Accounting Office at (916) 845-8340.

DRC 2003

Watch for information on the next ***Disaster Resistant California Conference--Innovation, Integration, Implementation.***
Coming - May/June 2003

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For additional OES information, you can access our Web site at
<http://www.oes.ca.gov>

Questions about this Bulletin? Please contact the OES Plans and Reports Unit at (916) 845-8280.



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